Thrissivaperoor Vadakkunnathan temple, Thrissur, Kerala

Info is given under following headings:

Location, how to get there, speciality of this temple, history and legends, architecture, main deity and subdeities, daily rituals and poojas and their charges, special poojas and their charges, festivals celebrated, facilities available for devotees such as accommodation, do's and don'ts, nearby temples, nearby hotels, nearby tourist spots, any other info...etc

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Ref: Google Gemini

The **Vadakkunnathan Temple** (also known as *Thrissivaperoor Vadakkunnathan Kshethram*) is one of the most significant spiritual and architectural landmarks in Kerala.

Below is the information organized under above mentioned headings:

Location & How to Get There

- **Location:** Situated at the heart of **Thrissur City** (the Cultural Capital of Kerala), Karnataka's neighboring state. The temple occupies a 9-acre elevated hillock known as **Thekkinkadu Maidan**.
- **By Train:** Thrissur Railway Station is approximately **1–2 km** away. Most major trains passing through Kerala stop here.
- **By Air:** The nearest airport is **Cochin International Airport (COK)**, located about **53 km** away.
- **By Road:** Thrissur is well-connected by NH 544. There are frequent KSRTC and private buses from major cities like Bangalore, Mangalore, and Kochi.

Speciality of the Temple

- **Ghee Mound:** The main Shiva Lingam is never visible; it is covered by a massive mound of ghee (*Neyy*). Over centuries of daily *Abhishekam* (anointing), this ghee has solidified into a 16-foot-high structure that strangely never melts, even in tropical heat, and never attracts insects.
- **UNESCO Recognition:** Awarded the **Award of Excellence** by UNESCO Asia-Pacific for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- **National Monument:** Declared a National Monument by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

History & Legends

- **Origin:** Legend credits **Lord Parasurama** (the 6th avatar of Vishnu) with the temple's creation. It is said he reclaimed Kerala from the sea and requested Lord Shiva to reside there.
- **Adi Shankara:** Tradition holds that the parents of **Adi Shankaracharya** prayed here for a child. It is also believed that Shankara spent his final days here.
- **Historical Age:** While the site is ancient, the current structures are believed to be over **1,000 years old**, with significant contributions from the Perumthachan (famed architect) and the Cochin Royal Family.

Architecture

- **Style:** A classic example of the **Kerala Style** of architecture.
- **Features:**
    - **Gopurams:** Four massive stone gateways facing the cardinal directions.
    - **Koothambalam:** One of the largest traditional dance halls in Kerala, featuring exquisite wood carvings.
    - **Mural Paintings:** Ancient murals depicting the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* cover the temple walls.
    - **Roofing:** Sloping roofs covered with copper plates.

Main Deity & Sub-Deities

- **Main Deity: Lord Vadakkunnathan** (Shiva), worshipped in the form of a Shiva Lingam covered in ghee.
- **Other Main Shrines:** Lord **Rama** and **Shankaranarayana** (the combined form of Shiva and Vishnu).
- **Sub-Deities:**
    - Goddess **Parvati** (behind the main Shiva shrine).
    - Lord **Ganesha** (famous for the *Appam* offering).
    - Lord **Ayyappa**, **Krishna**, and **Vettakkorumakan**.
    - **Adi Shankara** and **Simhodhara**.

Daily Rituals & Poojas

- **Timings:** Generally **4:00 AM to 11:00 AM** and **5:00 PM to 8:30 PM**.
- **Key Rituals:** *Nirmalyam*, *Abhishekam*, and *Usha Pooja* in the morning; *Deeparadhana* and *Athazha Pooja* in the evening.
- **Charges:** Most basic offerings (*Pushpanjali*) are nominal (₹20–₹50).
    - *Neyyabhishekam* (Ghee offering) and *Ganapathy Homam* are popular rituals with higher varying rates.
    - *Note: Official rates are updated periodically by the Cochin Devaswom Board and are best confirmed at the counter.*

Festivals

- **Thrissur Pooram (April/May):** Although the temple itself does not technically participate in the Pooram (the deity stays inside), it is the **host venue**. Ten deities from neighboring temples come to pay respect to Vadakkunnathan.
- **Maha Shivaratri:** The most important temple-specific festival. The temple is lit with **Lakshadeepam** (one lakh oil lamps).
- **Aanayoottu:** Ritual feeding of elephants on the first day of the Malayalam month *Karkidakam* (July).

Facilities for Devotees

- **Accommodation:** The Devaswom Board maintains guest houses (like the *Sree Vadakkunnathan Guest House*). Many private hotels are located around the **Swaraj Round**.
- **Annadanam:** Often provided during festival seasons.
- **Cloak Room:** Available for keeping footwear and luggage.

Do's and Don'ts

- **Dress Code (Strict):** * **Men:** Must wear a *Mundu* (Dhoti). Shirts and vests must be removed before entering the inner sanctum.
    - **Women:** Saree, Set-Mundu, or Long Skirts. Salwar Kameez with dupatta is generally permitted now, but sarees are preferred.
- **Photography:** Strictly prohibited inside the inner temple complex.
- **Entry:** Traditionally, entry is restricted to **Hindus only**.
- **Electronics:** Mobile phones must be switched off or kept outside.

Nearby Points of Interest

- **Temples:** Paramekkavu Bhagavathy Temple, Thiruvambadi Sri Krishna Temple, and the famous **Guruvayur Temple** (approx. 25 km away).
- **Hotels:** Hotels like *Garuda*, *Hyatt Regency*, and *Casino Hotels* are nearby.
- **Tourist Spots:** Shakthan Thampuran Palace, Thrissur Zoo & Museum, and Athirappilly Waterfalls (approx. 60 km away).

Researcher's Note: You may find the temple's **mural paintings** particularly interesting since they are among the finest surviving examples of medieval Kerala art.

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Ref: GrokAI

Sri Vadakkunnathan temple, Thrissur

****Location****

The Vadakkunnathan Temple (also known as Thrissivaperoor Vadakkunnathan Temple or Sree Wadakkunathan Temple) is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated primarily to Lord Shiva. It is located in the heart of Thrissur (Thrissivaperoor) city, in Thrissur district, Kerala, India, at Thekkinkadu Maidan, Swaraj Round North, Thrissur, Kerala – 680001. The temple sits on an elevated area in the city center, surrounded by the Thekkinkadu Maidan (a large open ground that serves as the venue for the Thrissur Pooram festival).

****How to Get There****

- **By Air**: Nearest airport is Cochin International Airport (Nedumbassery), about 53–55 km away. Taxis, cabs, or buses are available from there.
- **By Rail**: Thrissur Railway Station is the closest, around 1–3 km away. It is well-connected to major cities.
- **By Road**: Easily accessible by bus, auto-rickshaw, taxi, or cab from within Thrissur and nearby towns. The temple is in the city center, near Swaraj Round.

****Speciality of This Temple****

It is one of the oldest Shiva temples in Kerala, believed to be the first among the 108 Shiva temples established by Parashurama.

The main Shiva Lingam is uniquely covered by centuries of accumulated ghee (Neyyattam), making it invisible and giving it the appearance of snow-clad Mount Kailash.

It features exceptional traditional Kerala architecture, ancient murals (including Mahabharata scenes), wood carvings, and a Koothambalam (temple theatre).

It is a National Monument and has received conservation awards. The temple is the focal point of the world-famous Thrissur Pooram festival.

****History and Legends****

According to legends from the Brahmanda Purana, Lord Parashurama created Kerala by throwing his axe into the sea.
He then brought Lord Shiva to bless the land.
Shiva manifested as a radiant Lingam at the foot of a banyan tree (Sreemoolasthana).
The Lingam was later shifted to the current site.
The temple has historical connections to the Cochin royal family, Sakthan Thampuran (who popularized Thrissur Pooram), and Adi Shankara (legend says he was born due to prayers here and attained videha mukti here).

It survived invasions (e.g., Tipu Sultan reportedly respected it) and has been renovated over centuries.

No exact construction date is known, but it is over 1,000 years old.

****Architecture****

Classic Kerala style with sloping roofs, wood carvings, and mural paintings.

The complex spans about 9 acres enclosed by a stone wall with four Gopurams (towers) in cardinal directions (east and west are main entrances; south opens during Pooram).

Key features include a Koothambalam, circular and rectangular shrines, Chuttambalam corridor, and Namaskara Mandapams.

The temple has been restored following traditional principles and received a UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Excellence for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

****Main Deity and Sub-Deities****

- ****Main Deity****: Lord Shiva as Vadakkunnathan (facing west), with a large ghee-covered Lingam.
Parvati is enshrined behind him (facing east), representing Ardhanarishvara.

- ****Sub-Deities****: Shankaranarayana (Shiva-Vishnu combined), Sri Rama, Ganesha, Krishna (Gosala Krishna), Nandikeswara (white bull), Ayyappa, Vettekkaran, Simhodara, Naga Devatas, Adi Shankara, and others.
There are also spots for remembering various deities and sacred places.

****Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges****

****Timings**** (approximate; may vary):

- Morning: Opens ~4:00 AM (Neyyattam ~4:15 AM), Usha Pooja ~6:00–6:30 AM, Ucha Pooja ~10:00–10:45 AM, Closes ~11:00 AM (later on weekends/holidays).

- Evening: Opens ~5:00 PM, Deeparadhana ~6:15 PM, Athazha Pooja ~7:00–7:45 PM, Thripuka ~8:00–8:20 PM, Closes ~8:30 PM.

Common offerings (charges in INR, indicative; check official site for updates):

- Pushpanjali: ₹12
- Ganapathy Homam: ₹110
- Palpayasam: ₹110
- Neypayasam: ₹120–215
- Vilwadalarchana / Lalitha Sahasranamarchana: ₹40
- Mrithyunjaya Homam: ₹350
- Neyyattam (Vadakkunnathan): ₹1,850

- Others like Dhara, Appam, etc., available. Online booking possible via official portal.

****Special Poojas and Their Charges****

Higher-value ones include:

- Thrikala Pooja: ₹640
- Maha Mrithyunjaya Homam: ₹710
- Niramala Chuttuvilakku (Full): ₹11,500
- Udhyasthamana Pooja: ₹1,16,000
- Annadanam options and large-scale offerings are also available.

Charges are subject to change; book via sreewadakkunathantemple.org.

****Festivals Celebrated****

- **Thrissur Pooram** (main festival, April/May): Grand elephant processions, music, fireworks; "mother of all festivals" in Kerala.
- Maha Shivaratri (major festival with continuous abhishekam, lamps, and night-long poojas).
- Navaratri, Thiruvathira, Aanayoottu (elephant feeding).
- Other events include cultural programs and Koothu/Koodiyattam in the Koothambalam.

****Facilities Available for Devotees****

Limited on-site accommodation (devotees often stay in nearby hotels/lodges).
The temple has a pond (Surya Pushkarini), landscaping, and basic facilities.
Annadanam (free/prasadam meals) is offered.
Restrooms and drinking water are available in the complex.
No photography inside the temple.

****Do's and Don'ts****

- Entry restricted to Hindus only.
- Follow dress code (traditional attire preferred; no shorts, etc.).
- Remove footwear outside.
- Maintain silence and decorum.
- No photography or videography inside the temple premises.
- Respect rituals and timings.

****Nearby Temples****

- Paramekkavu Bhagavathy Temple, Thiruvambadi Sri Krishna Temple (key participants in Thrissur Pooram).
- **Others in Thrissur area:** Chembukkavu Bhagavathy, Kanimangalam Sastha, etc.

Nearby Hotels

Plenty of options in Thrissur city center ranging from budget lodges to mid-range and luxury hotels (e.g., near Swaraj Round or Railway Station). Popular chains and local hotels are available; book in advance during festivals.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Thekkinkadu Maidan (surrounding the temple).
- Thrissur Zoo, Shakthan Thampuran Palace, State Museum.
- Further: Guruvayur Temple (~25–30 km), Athirappilly Waterfalls, etc.

Any Other Info

- **The temple museum** displays ancient artifacts, murals, and wood carvings.
- Conservation work (ongoing in parts) follows traditional methods with support from ASI and trusts like VGKT.
- **Website**: sreewadakkunathantemple.org (for bookings, calendar, updates). Phone: 0487-2426040 / 2421312.
- Best visited outside festival rush for a peaceful darshan.

The ghee on the Lingam is said not to melt or smell foul despite centuries of accumulation.

This is a living heritage site blending spirituality, art, and culture. For the latest details, visit the official website or contact the temple directly. Safe travels!

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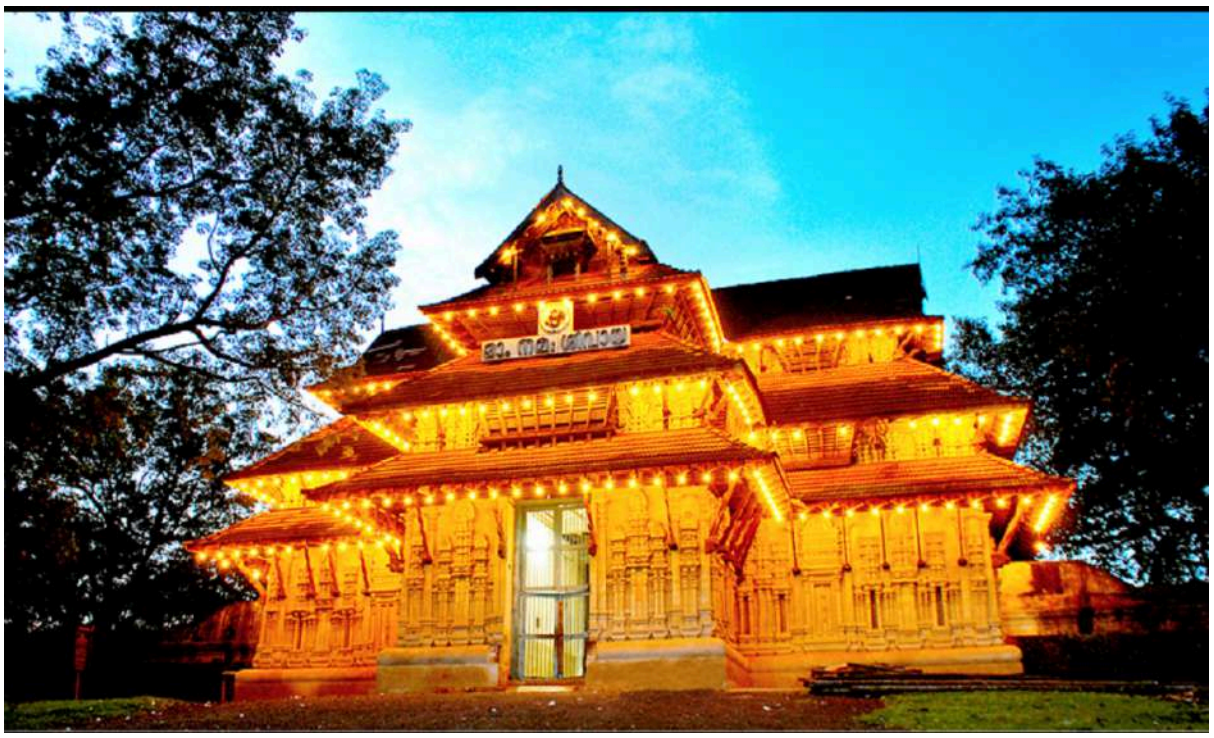
Ref: ClaudeAI

SREE VADAKKUNNATHAN TEMPLE, THRISSUR
(Also known as Thenkailasam, Vrishabhachalam, Dakshina Kailasam)



Here is a comprehensive guide to the **Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur**, Kerala — one of the most magnificent Shiva temples in India.

📍 LOCATION

The renowned Vadakkunnathan Temple is situated in the heart of Thrissur town, in the Thrissur district of Kerala.

[Kerala Tourism](https://www.keralatourism.org/temples/thrissur/vadakkumnathan)

The temple is enclosed by colossal stone walls covering an area of around eight acres.

[Mahashivratri](https://www.mahashivratri.org/shiva-temples/vadakkunnathan-temple.html)

It stands on a small hillock called **Thekkinkadu Maidan**, and from the top, one can get a panoramic view of the entire Thrissur town.

🚗 HOW TO GET THERE

By Air: Cochin International Airport is the nearest airport, situated at a distance of about 58 km. Upon arrival, you can easily reach the temple by taxi or bus.

(https://www.southtourism.in/kerala/temples/vadakkunnathan-shiva-temple.php)

By Train: Thrissur Railway Station is the nearest railway station, situated at a distance of just 3.7 km from the temple.
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(https://www.southtourism.in/kerala/temples/vadakkunnathan-shiva-temple.php)

By Road: Thrissur is very well connected to all major cities in Kerala. KSRTC and private buses ply regularly from Ernakulam (Kochi), Kozhikode, Palakkad, and Thiruvananthapuram. The temple is right in the heart of the city and is easily accessible from all parts.

Local Transport: Auto-rickshaws, taxis, and app-based cabs are freely available within Thrissur city to reach the temple.

✨ SPECIALITY OF THIS TEMPLE

Situated in a nine-acre walled patch of green, the temple received the 'Award of Excellence' at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, in recognition of the efforts taken to protect its architectural legacy.

[Kerala Tourism](https://www.keralatourism.org/temples/thrissur/vadakkumnathan)

The temple, along with the mural paintings, has been declared a National Monument by India under the AMASR Act.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

One of its most unique features is the **Ghee Lingam**: the Ghee Linga is 12 feet tall and 25 feet wide, solid as a rock though made of ghee. If ghee appears from the Linga, it does not melt and disappear immediately, and the Linga is not affected even when abhishek is performed with sandal paste, rose water, etc.

[OneIndia](https://www.oneindia.com/temples/vadakkumnathan-temple-thrissur-i188/)

Every day priests offer 18.5 kilos of rice to Lord Shiva as Nivedyam. Abhishekam takes place every day with ghee, lighting hundreds of oil lamps around the Shiva Lingam. This ritual has been taking place for hundreds of years, leading to a solid ghee mound encircling the Shiva Lingam. Devotees receive a scraping of this mound as Prasadam, and locals believe the ghee has medicinal and herbal properties.

[Myoksha](https://myoksha.com/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

Another speciality is the daily worship of a mural depicting Vasuki Sayana, where Lord Shiva is shown in a reclining posture — notable because in most temples, murals are not considered objects of worship.

(https://www.southtourism.in/kerala/temples/vadakkunnathan-shiva-temple.php)

The temple is the first of the 108 Shiva temples of ancient Kerala established by Parashurama, and is mentioned in the Shiva Temple Stotra as Srimad-Dakshina Kailasam, meaning 'Mount Kailash of the South.'

[MandirTimings]

(https://www.mandirtimings.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-timings-vip-darshan/)

📜 HISTORY AND LEGENDS

The origins of Vadakkunnathan Temple are shrouded in the mists of time. Legends attribute its creation to Lord Parashurama, an avatar of Vishnu, suggesting its existence could date back over 4,000 years. Historical records offer a more concrete timeframe, placing its construction around the 9th–10th centuries CE.

[TravelTriangle](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

According to popular lore, **this is the first temple built by Parashurama**, the sixth avatar of Vishnu. According to legend, Parashurama requested the Lord of Oceans Varuna to bring forth a new piece of land from the waters.

Varuna complied, and the land created became Kerala.

Parashurama then went to Mount Kailasa to his guru Lord Shiva and requested him to take abode in Kerala.

Shiva, accompanied by Parvati, Ganesha, Subrahmanya, and his retinue, went along with Parashurama.

Shiva stopped at a spot — which is now Thrissur — for his seat.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

Another legend speaks of the confrontation between Lord Shiva and the demon Daruka.

After vanquishing Daruka, Shiva is said to have enshrined himself at the temple's present location. [TravelTriangle](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

****The Legend of Adi Shankara**:** Adi Shankara is believed to have been born consequent to the prayers of his parents Shivaguru and Aryamba at this temple.

The couple devoutly prayed for 41 days.

Legend has it that Shiva appeared to the couple in their dreams and offered them a choice — a mediocre son who would live long, or an extraordinary son who would die early.

Both chose the latter, and in honour of Shiva, named their son Shankara.

According to legend, Adi Shankara also attained videha mukti at the Vadakkunnathan temple. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

****Tipu Sultan's Connection**:** During the invasion of Tipu Sultan, the temple was not attacked. Even though Tipu Sultan destroyed many temples in Thrissur district at that time, he never touched the Vadakkunnathan Temple.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

🏛️ **ARCHITECTURE**

The Vadakkunnathan Temple is a classical example of the architectural style of Kerala. It has one monumental tower on each of the four sides in addition to a Koothambalam. Mural paintings depicting various scenes from the Mahabharata can be seen inside the temple. The shrines and the Kuttambalam display vignettes carved in wood.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

The inner temple is separated from the outer temple by a broad circular granite wall enclosing a broad corridor called Chuttambalam. The temple theatre is known as Koothambalam, used for staging Koothu, Nangyar Koothu and Koodiyattam, ancient ritualistic art forms of Central Kerala.

[Tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g735202-d2665152-Reviews-or80-Vadakkunnathan_Temple-Thrissur_Thrissur_District_Kerala.html)

The temple complex comprises a central shrine or Sreekovil, surrounded by a rectangular outer wall with four massive gateways or Gopurams, each facing a cardinal direction.

(https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/kerala/thrissur/the-vadakkumnathan-temple)

Towards the northern side, a circular structure features the idol of the deity facing west.

The idol of Lord Shiva and Parvati, which faces east, is located right behind the Shiva idol in the same shrine.

In the southern side is the double-storeyed Shri Rama shrine facing west. A third shrine — also circular and double-storeyed — is dedicated to Sankaranarayan.

[Mahashivratri](https://www.mahashivratri.org/shiva-temples/vadakkunnathan-temple.html)

There is a Nataraja mural near the main entrance that depicts Lord Shiva as Nataraja, the cosmic dancer, with vibrant colours and intricate details.

The temple complex also features a holy tank called the Rudra Theertham, where devotees can perform cleansings before entering the sanctum sanctorum.

[TravelTriangle](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

It took artisans, archaeologists and their team more than 10 years to restore the ancient

temple to its former grandeur and glory. [Kerala

Tourism](https://www.keralatourism.org/destination/vadakkumnatha-temple-thrissur/70/)

🙏 **MAIN DEITY AND SUB-DEITIES**

Main Deity:** The sanctum sanctorum enshrines the principal deity, Lord Shiva, in the form of a Swayambhu (self-manifested) Shiva Lingam, believed to be one of the oldest in Kerala.
(https://www.incredibleindia.gov.in/en/kerala/thrissur/the-vadakkumnathan-temple)

Sub-Deities:** The temple is defined by three main shrines — Lord Shiva, Lord Rama, and Lord Shankaranarayana. It also has a dedicated, exclusive shrine for Goddess Parvati.

[Memorytrain](https://memorytrain.com/blogs/news/vadakkunnathan-temple)

Lord Shiva in the hunter form called Vettekkaran is also worshipped in the Nalambalam area.

The temple's majesty also features Vrishabha, Simhodara, Lord Krishna, Adi Sankaracharya, and Dharmasastha.

[Mahashivratri](https://www.mahashivratri.org/shiva-temples/vadakkunnathan-temple.html)

Other important sub-deities include Sri Krishna, Sri Nandikeswara, Sri Ayyappan, and Sri Adi Shankara.

🪔 DAILY RITUALS AND POOJAS

Temple Timings:** The temple opens daily at 4:00 AM and closes at 10:00 AM, reopens at 4:30 PM, and closes at 8:20 PM after Trippuka, the last rite of the day. Three poojas are performed daily. No deities are taken out in procession.

(https://www.templepurohit.com/hindu-temple/vadakunnathan-temple-thrissur-kerala/)

The daily pooja sequence includes:

- **Nirmalyadarshanam** (early morning)
- **Abhishekam** — ritual bath of the deity using ghee, milk, honey, and tender coconut
- **Usha Pooja / Ethrithu Pooja** — morning worship
- **Pantheeradi Pooja** — mid-morning worship
- **Uchapooja** — noon worship
- **Dheeparadhana** — offering of light to the deity, symbolizing the removal of darkness and ignorance

(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-timings-opening-closing-break-pooja/)

- **Athazha Pooja** — the final meal of the day offered to the deity, considered highly auspicious by devotees

(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-timings-opening-closing-break-pooja/)

- **Trippuka** — the burning of camphor and incense marking the conclusion of the day's rituals, signifying purification and peace

(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-timings-opening-closing-break-pooja/)

As you enter the temple, you can hear the continuous chanting of 'Samb Sadashiva.'

[Myoksha](https://myoksha.com/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

Entry Fee:** Darshan is **completely free** for all devotees. [Temple Timings](https://templetimings.in/vtdvs/)

🌺 SPECIAL POOJAS (VAZHIPADU) AND CHARGES

Costs for Vazhipadu range from ₹50 for basic offerings to ₹2,000 for special poojas.

(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-vazhipadu-list-timings-tickets-cost/)

Some notable ones include:

- **Ganapathi Homam** — fire ritual to invoke Lord Ganesha's blessings; removes obstacles and ensures success in new ventures

- **Ghee Abhishekam** — pouring of ghee over the idol of Lord Shiva; offers purification and fulfillment of desires

- **Panchamrita Abhishekam** — a detailed abhishekam using holy substances like milk, honey, and ghee; grants peace, prosperity, and health

- **Mrityunjaya Homam** — fire ritual dedicated to Lord Shiva to ward off untimely death

- **Nivedyam** — offering of rice/food to the deity

The temple doesn't offer a dedicated VIP pass, but special darshan is included with certain Vazhipadu bookings.

Vazhipadu can be booked online at the official site: sreewadakkunathantemple.org [Temple Timings](https://templetimings.in/vtdvs/)

🎉 FESTIVALS CELEBRATED

1. **Thrissur Pooram (April–May):**

Thrissur Pooram is called the mother of all Poorams in Kerala.

It is conducted in the Malayalam month of Medam. The deities from Paramekavu and Thiruvambady temples along with other small Poorams come together for festivities in front of Vadakkunnathan. It is a 36-hour-long festival attracting thousands of devotees and tourists. The main attractions are Madathilavaravu Panchavadhyam, Elanjithara Melam, Kudamattam, and Vedikettu.
[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

The festival is an extravaganza with caparisoned elephants, extraordinary fireworks displays, and much more. The Kudamattom ceremony is a highlight in which colourful, sequinned parasols are swiftly and rhythmically changed.

(https://www.keralatourism.org/destination/vadakkumnatha-temple-thrissur/70/)

2. Maha Shivaratri (February–March):

Maha Shivaratri is celebrated in a grand manner with many cultural and musical programmes attracting huge numbers of devotees.

Around one lakh temple lamps are lit during the festival. The temple is not closed at night and special poojas with abhishekam are held through the day.

(https://www.templepurohit.com/hindu-temple/vadakunnathan-temple-thrissur-kerala/)

3. Aanayoottu (July):
Aanayoottu is a unique event where elephants are ceremonially fed, held annually on the first day of the Malayalam month of Karkidakam (corresponding to July). The elephants are treated as incarnations of Lord Ganesha.

(https://www.southtourism.in/kerala/temples/vadakkunnathan-shiva-temple.php)

🏨 FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR DEVOTEES

- **Accommodation**:** **The temple does not have its own pilgrim accommodation**, but there are several stay options available near the temple, ranging from budget hotels to luxury resorts.

(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-darshan-guide/)

- **Prasadam Distribution**:** Prasadam (ghee from the Shiva Lingam mound) is distributed to devotees.

- **Parking**:** There is a parking facility available near the temple for visitors. [Go Kshetra](https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-darshan-guide/)

- **Food Stalls**:** There are several food stalls and restaurants available near the temple, serving a variety of local and international cuisines.

[Go Kshetra](https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-darshan-guide/)

- **Online Vazhipadu Booking**:** Vazhipadu (offerings and poojas) can be booked online through the official temple website.

✅ DO'S AND DON'TS

Do's:**
- Men must wear a white Pancha or dhoti (mundu) and must remove their shirts before entering the shrine. Women may wear a saree or salwar kameez with a dupatta. [South Tourism](https://www.southtourism.in/kerala/temples/vadakkunnathan-shiva-temple.php)
- Remove footwear before entering the temple premises.
- Maintain silence and observe reverence inside the temple.
- Walk clockwise (Pradakshina) around the shrine.

- Entry to the temple is restricted to Hindus only.

(https://www.southtourism.in/kerala/temples/vadakkunnathan-shiva-temple.php)

Don'ts:**

- Modern clothing such as jeans, shorts, or short skirts is strictly prohibited within the temple premises.
(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-vazhipadu-list-timings-tickets-cost/)

- **Photography is strictly prohibited inside the temple.**

(https://gokshetra.com/vadakkunnathan-temple-vazhipadu-list-timings-tickets-cost/)

- Do not carry leather items (bags/belts) into the sanctum.
- Do not speak loudly or use mobile phones inside.
- Do not litter in the temple premises.

🛕 NEARBY TEMPLES

1. Paramekavu Bhagavathy Temple — Located at the foothill of the Vadakkunnathan Temple; a key participant in the Thrissur Pooram festival.

2. Thiruvambady Sri Krishna Temple — Also a prominent participant in the Thrissur Pooram.

3. Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple — Located 27 km from Vadakkunnathan Temple. Famous for Krishnattom dance form performed every evening, and the unique Thulabharam offering ritual. Numerous oil lamps are lit every night. [Myoksha](https://myoksha.com/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

4. Irinjalakuda Koodalmanikyam Temple — Located 21 km away, with Bharat (Lord Rama's brother) as the presiding deity. A 9th-century temple celebrating the Medam festival for 10 days in April or May. [Myoksha](https://myoksha.com/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

5. Kodungallur Bhagavathy Temple — Close to Thrissur; the deity is also known as Kannagi and Bhadrakali.

🏨 NEARBY HOTELS

A wide range of accommodation is available near the temple, from budget to luxury:

- **Hyatt Regency Thrissur** — One of the finest 5-star premium hotels in Thrissur, the cultural capital of Kerala, just 15 minutes' drive from Thrissur Railway Station. [Hyatt](https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/cokrt-hyatt-regency-thrissur)

- **Park Inn & Suites by Radisson Thrissur East Fort** — 4-star hotel with swimming pool, gym, and restaurant.

- **The Garuda** — 5-star hotel with spa, swimming pool, and gym.

- **Zip by Spree Hotels Mangala Towers** — 4-star hotel praised for its excellent location close to the temple.

- **Treebo Trend Central** — Within a 5-minute drive of Vadakkunnathan Temple and Shakthan Thampuran Palace.

[Trip.com](https://us.trip.com/hot/best-hotels-near-vadakkunnathan-temple/)

- **Hotel National Tourist Home** — Located within a 7-minute walk of the temple.

[Booking.com](https://www.booking.com/landmark/in/vadakkunnathan-shiva-shacthram.html)

- Budget options such as Hotel Niya Regency, VVs Lakshmi Inn, and Pathans Residential Hotel (1 km from the temple) are also popular.

🌿 NEARBY TOURIST SPOTS

1. Shakthan Thampuran Palace (0.76 km) — The home and resting place of Shakthan Thampuran, the king of the Cochin dynasty who renovated and expanded the Vadakkunnathan Temple. It is now a museum showcasing the history and culture of Thrissur. [Tripoto](https://www.tripoto.com/thrissur/places-to-visit/vadakkunnathan-temple)

2. Our Lady of Dolours Basilica / Bible Tower (0.57 km) — The tallest church in India and the third tallest in Asia, with a Bible Tower that has many paintings and a Bible museum. [Tripoto](https://www.tripoto.com/thrissur/places-to-visit/vadakkunnathan-temple)

3. Thrissur Zoo & Museum (1.11 km) — One of the oldest zoos in the country with a variety of animals, reptiles, and birds. It also has a natural history museum and an art

museum displaying the social and cultural heritage of Thrissur. [Tripoto](https://www.tripoto.com/thrissur/places-to-visit/vadakkunnathan-temple)

4. Vilangan Hills — A scenic hill offering a panoramic view of Thrissur city and the Thrissur Kole Wetlands.

5. Peechi Dam (20 km) — A picturesque reservoir surrounded by lush greenery, offering opportunities for boating and picnicking. [TravelTriangle](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

6. Athirappilly Waterfalls (47 km) — One of the largest and most famous waterfalls in Kerala, falling from a height of about 80 feet. Also known as the Niagara of India because of its width and volume; a popular tourist attraction and shooting location for many films. [Tripoto](https://www.tripoto.com/thrissur/places-to-visit/vadakkunnathan-temple)

7. Kerala Kalamandalam (31 km) — A premier government institution dedicated to preserving Kathakali, Kudiyattam, and Mohiniyattam performing arts, situated on the banks of the Bharathapuzha River.

8. Snehatheeram Beach & Chavakkad Beach — Popular beaches in the Thrissur district for relaxation and recreation.

9. Cheraman Juma Masjid (35 km) — Believed to be the first mosque in India, constructed in 629 AD by Malik Ibn Dinar with the permission of Cheraman Perumal, the king of Kerala. One of the oldest mosques in the world that still offers prayers, with a museum, library, and art gallery. [Tripoto](https://www.tripoto.com/thrissur/places-to-visit/vadakkunnathan-temple)

ℹ️ ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **UNESCO Recognition**:** The temple received the 'Award of Excellence' at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

[Kerala Tourism](https://www.keralatourism.org/temples/thrissur/vadakkumnathan)

- **ASI Recognition**:** In 2012, the Archaeological Survey of India recommended Vadakkunnathan Temple as one of 14 sites from Kerala for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

- **Restoration**:** A comprehensive conservation/restoration of the temple adhering to traditional architectural principles of Kerala was completed in 2015.

The main Temple enclosure including the sanctum, Naalambalam, Vilakkumaadam, outer shrines, and landscape was restored, while work on the Gopurams is ongoing as of 2025. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vadakkunnathan_Temple)

- **Best Time to Visit**:** October to February is considered ideal, as the weather is cool and comfortable for temple visits and exploring the surrounding areas. For a vibrant experience, visit during Maha Shivaratri (February–March) or Thrissur Pooram (April–May).

[TravelTriangle](https://traveltriangle.com/blog/vadakkunnathan-temple/)

- **Official Website**:** sreewadakkunathantemple.org — for online Vazhipadu booking and current information.

- **Contact**:** Cochin Devaswom Board manages the temple affairs.

This is truly one of India's most magnificent and spiritually charged temples — a perfect blend of devotion, history, art, and architecture. A visit here is an experience that stays with you for life! 🙏

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Ref: Wikipedia

Photos

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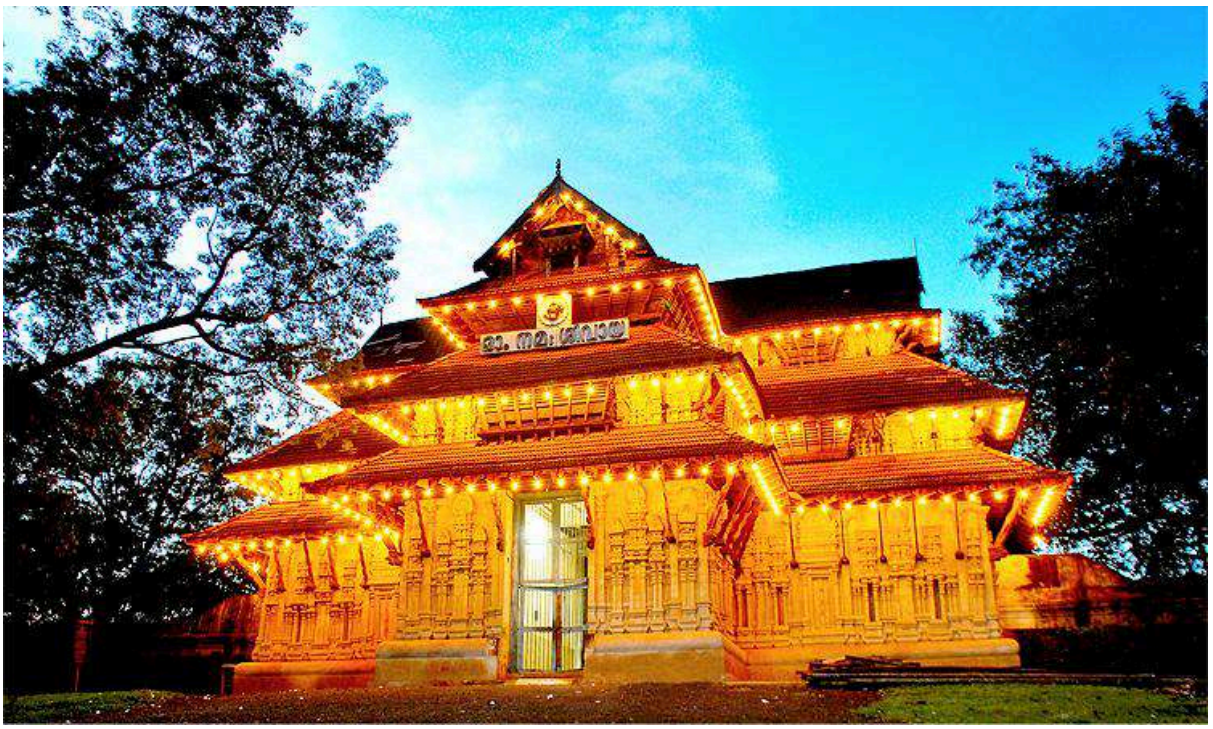

Vadakkumnathan Temple's Thekke Gopura Vathil lighted up during the Maha Shivaratri festival

Interior of Vadakkunnathan Temple and on the right side is the Koothambalam.

The *Sri Mula Sthana* – the original site of the linga, before it was moved to the current temple.

A rare picture of the main entrance of Vadakkunnathan Temple taken in 1913 seen from Swaraj Round from Illustrated Guide to the South Indian Railway, printed by Hoe and Coat the 'Premier Press'.

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Videos

Decorated elephants in front of famous Vadakkunnathan temple, May 2014 (4 min); https://youtu.be/OOCqtKxFGRo?si=0Ec2LhV0Lb3B1zGN

Devotees at Vadakkunnathan temple for Thrissur pooram, May 2014 (1 min): https://youtu.be/pLJMuH_snCw?si=d-aJdJEd00sv5_e3

Vadakkumnathan Temple (0.31 min): https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1cZaD6jePT/

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Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included, giving (I) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

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About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore,as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

Driven by a deep interest in India's spiritual heritage, he has also authored many FREE ebooks on Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics, with the aim of preserving and spreading this knowledge to future generations.

All his ebooks are available for free download at Archive.org.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
May 15, 2026

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